

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 0783

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NU

SUBJECT: CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER WITH LETTER FROM SECRETARY
KISSINGER

REF: STATE 038445

1. I DELIVERED SECRETARY KISSINGER'S LETTER TO GON FONMIN MONTIEL AT 11:30 AM, FEBRUARY 29, THE FONMIN ASKED ME TO CONVEY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER HIS VERY DEEP APPRECIATION FOR HIS THOUGHTFUL LETTER AND FOR WHAT HE CONSIDERED TO BE THE TRULY SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION MADE BY THE SECRETARY TO THE IMPROVEMENT OF RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES, LATIN AMERICA, AND THE CARIBBEAN. THE FONMIN SAID THAT HIS PRIMARY IMPRESSION WAS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER IN HIS "FRANKNESS" WITH HIS COLLEAGUES HAD MADE A HIGHLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION AND HAD CONVINCED THE LATIN'S THAT HE (SECRETARY KISSINGER)

WOULD DO HIS BEST TO FULFILL ANY PROMISES MADE AND THAT HE WOULD BE EQUALLY AS PREPARED TO SAY THAT THE UNITED STATES COULD NOT AGREE TO SOMETHING IF THIS WAS THE CASE. THE MINISTER SAID THAT THIS FRANKNESS IN HIS OPINION HAD MADE A VERY HELPFUL AND USEFUL IMPRESSION AND HAD ESTABLISHED THE TYPE OF DIALOGUE WHICH HE BELIEVED WAS NEEDED IN LATIN AMERICAN-U.S. RELATIONS.

2. MINISTER MONTIEL SAID THAT HE WILL ATTEMPT WITHIN THE NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS TO FORMULATE ANY USEFUL THOUGHTS WHICH MIGHT BE OF UTILITY TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AT THE ATLANTA MEETING AND WOULD PASS THEM ON TO ME AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE FOR TRANSMISSION TO THE SECRETARY.

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3. MINISTER MONTIEL SAID THAT PERHAPS THE MOST USEFUL INFORMATION THAT HE COULD GIVE WOULD BE HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WHICH OCCURRED AMONG LATIN FOREIGN MINISTERS PRIOR TO THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE MEETING IN MEXICO CITY. HE SAID HE THOUGHT THIS MIGHT BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT NO U.S. REPRESENTATIVE WAS PRESENT. MINISTER MONTIEL SAID THAT HE WAS SOMEWHAT SURPRISED BY THE NEGATIVE ATTITUDE DEMONSTRATED BY MEXICO IN THE PERSON OF FOREIGN MINISTER RABASA. HE HAD BEEN UNDER THE IMPRESSION THAT RABASA WAS PLANNING TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BE OF ASSISTANCE IN ADVANCING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND LATIN AMERICA AND YET IN RABASA'S PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS HE TENDED TO TAKE A CONSIDERABLY NEGATIVE APPROACH TOWARD PRO-U.S. PROPOSALS RAISED BY OTHER LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AND HIS APPOINTMENTS TO COMMITTEES, IN MINISTER MONTIEL'S OPINION, WERE DEFINITELY STACKED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES. MINISTER MONTIEL SAID THAT COLUMBIA, COSTA RICA, PERU, AND JAMAICA HAD TAKEN THE LEAD IN THESE PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS IN PUSHING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF CUBA AND THE REMOVAL OF ALL TRADE RESTRAINTS AGAINST CUBA. HE SAID THAT COSTA RICAN FONMIN FACIO HAD BEEN PARTICULARLY ACTIVE IN A NUMBER OF ANTI-U.S. INITIATIVES IN THESE PRIVATE TALKS AND HAD MADE A SPECIFIC

PROPOSAL FOR THE RE-DRAFTING OF THE RIO TREATY. MONTIEL SAID THAT HE HAD STOPPED FACIO IN THIS PARTICULAR EFFORT BY SIMPLY SAYING THAT HE WOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES GO ALONG WITH ANY SUCH PROPOSAL, THAT THE SUBJECT HAD ALREADY BEEN ARGUED FOR MONTHS IN LIMA, AND THAT TO INTRODUCE IT IN MEXICO CITY WOULD BE HIGHLY DETRIMENTAL. MONTIEL SAID THAT HE GAINED THE IMPRESSION THAT FACIO IS RUNNING HARD TO BECOME SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, AND THAT HE TRYING TO BE "ALL THINGS TO ALL PEOPLE", AND PARTICULARLY ATTEMPTING TO APPEAL TO SOME OF THE LEFT-LEANING STATES IN ORDER TO GET THEIR SUPPORT. MINISTER MONTIEL SAID THAT HE WAS EXPECIALLY ANNOYED AT WHAT HE CONSIDERS FACIO'S CONTINUED ANTI-U.S. JIBES DURING THESE PRIVATE TALKS. FYI: THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT FACIO MAY BE A "STALKING HORSE" FOR FIGUERES CANDIDACY FOR OAS POSITION. END FYI.

4. MINISTER MONTIEL SAID THAT BRAZIL WAS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN TRADE MATTERS AND HAD LITTLE TO SAY IN THESE PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS, EXCEPT WHEN TRADE MATTERS AROSE.

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5. THE CHILEAN FONMIN HAD DISCUSSED WITH HIM AT SOME LENGTH THE PROBLEM THAT MRS. ALLENDE WAS CAUSING BEFORE THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION AT THE UNITED NATIONS, AND HAD ASKED THE NICARAGUAN FONMIN TO DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE IN NEW YORK TO ASSIST CHILE IN RESISTING THESE UNDESERVED ATTACKS.

6. MINISTER MONTIEL ADDED THAT THERE WERE TWO POINTS THAT WERE RAISED BY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS PRIVATELY AND DISCUSSED AT SOME

CONSIDERABLE LENGTH WHICH MIGHT BE OF INTEREST. THERE WAS A GENERALLY NEGATIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD ANY PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH ANY TYPE OF MECHANISM FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF ECONOMIC DISPUTES WITHIN THE HEMISPHERE, ON THE BASIS THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD CONSTITUTE INTERVENTION IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. MINISTER MONTIEL SAID HE COULD NOT UNDER-

STAND THE LOGIC OF THE FONMINS ACCEPTANCE OF THE SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES ON OTHER ISSUES THAN ECONOMICS BEING ACCEPTABLE, WHEREAS THE SETTLEMENT OF ECONOMIC DISPUTES WOULD CONSTITUTE INTERVENTION AND HAD SAID SO.

7. THERE WAS ALSO CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION AS TO WHY CANADA HAD NOT BEEN INVITED. I GATHERED THAT THIS WAS PARTICULARLY RAISED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CARIBBEAN STATES.

8. MINISTER MONTIEL SAID THAT THE GUYANESE FONMIN DISCUSSIONS WERE LONG-WINDED, LEFT-LEANING, AND SOMEWHAT TIRING, BUT MADE LITTLE IMPRESSION.

9. THE FONMIN SAID THAT HE WAS SURPRISED AT THE VEHEMENCE OF THE COLUMBIAN FOREIGN MINISTER'S PUSHING OF THE CUBAN ISSUE, BUT THAT HE ASSUMED THAT THIS WAS TIED IN WITH THE UP-COMING COLUMBIAN ELECTIONS.

10. OVERALL, THE FONMIN FELT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S HANDLING OF THE SITUATION AT MEXICO WAS "MASTERFUL". HE FELT THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER HAD MADE A VERY STRONG IMPRESSION OF INTEREST IN THE HEMISPHERE WHICH HAD BEEN LACKING AND THAT THE PRINCIPAL PROBLEM AS HE SAW IT WAS NOW TO COME UP WITH SPECIFIC PROPOSALS AT THE ATLANTA

MEETING, IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK OF DISCUSSIONS

HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED IN MEXICO CITY AND TO CONTINUE TO BE USEFUL THE
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ATLANTA MEETING WOULD OF NECESSITY REQUIRE SOME VERY SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS.

11. MINISTER MONTIEL AGAIN ASKED ME TO EXPRESS HIS WARM CONGRATULATIONS TO SECRETARY KISSINGER AND HIS APPRECIATION FOR HIS COURTESY AND THOUGHTFULNESS.
SHELTON

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